

SITUATION REPORT NO. 58
INCIDENT NO. 97-015
DATE: July 31, 1997 TIME: 4:00 P.M.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring flood statewide.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: The National Weather Service (NWS) reports that Devils Lake has remained at 1,442.95 feet MSL for the past three days. The NWS has forecasted that the lake will reach 1,443.5 feet MSL by fall or early winter.

Severe storms and tornadoes in Renville County on July 23 damaged 24,000 acres of wheat, barley, oats, and canola. The storm also caused a total of \$400,000 in damages to 12 farm buildings and \$50,000 in damage to farm machinery and equipment. The next day, the Rolette County Sheriff reported wind gusts of up to 30 miles per hour (mph) and marble-sized hail north of Dunseith. The Sheriff also spotted two side-by-side funnel clouds south of the city of Rolette.

From July 25 to July 30, local officials in Barnes, Benson, Billings, Cavalier, Foster, Golden Valley, Pembina, Pierce, Renville and Towner Counties conducted an initial assessment of infrastructure damages based on storm activities, which occurred from May 25 to July 25. In addition to substantial agricultural damages which have been documented via flash reports to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Farm Service Agency (FSA) via local FSA committees, the amount of infrastructure damage reported is \$409,000 to non-FAS (Federal Aid System) roads and \$232,000 to FAS roads. Following is a county synopsis of those infrastructure damages:

Barnes County: Local officials placed damage to non-FAS roads at \$110,000, and \$62,000 to FAS roads. Some grade raises have been accomplished to bring the roads back into service. A local declaration for these new events has not been issued.

Benson County: Local officials have estimated damage to 16 sites on non-FAS roads at \$110,000, and \$62,000 to five sites on FAS roads. Two homes were isolated temporarily. A local declaration for these new events has not been issued.

Billings County: Local officials have placed damage to 17 sites on non-FAS roads at \$32,000, and \$20,000 to one FAS road. Emergency work has been accomplished at a cost of \$15,000. A local declaration for these new events has not been issued.

Cavalier County: Twenty-three sites on non-FAS roads have approximately \$25,000 damage and one FAS road has \$5,000 damage. A local declaration for these new events has been issued.

Foster County: Local officials have estimated damage to five sites on non-FAS roads at \$34,000. No damages were reported on FAS roads. Emergency work totaling \$10,000 has been completed. A local declaration for these new events has not been issued.

Golden Valley County: One resident has reported a collapsed basement wall due to the rainfall, and county officials estimated \$120,000 damage occurred to one site on an FAS road. A local declaration for these new events has not been issued.

Pembina County: Local officials placed damages to 15 non-FAS sites at \$15,000. No damages were reported to FAS roads. A local declaration for these new events has not been issued.

Pierce County: Initial assessment indicated that 100 non-FAS sites had sustained \$150,000 in damages. No damages were reported on FAS roads. A local declaration for these new events has been issued. Homes in the county have experienced seepage due to the high water tables and the heavy rains.

Renville County: The amount of damage to non-FAS roads is still being determined. More than \$5,000 damage has been reported to three sites on FAS roadways. A railroad reported seven sites where the roadbed has washed out. At one site, there was 53 vertical feet of roadbed missing. A local declaration for these new events has not been issued.

Towner County: Local officials estimated damages to 15 sites on non-FAS roads amounts to \$15,000. No damages were reported on FAS roads. A local declaration for these new events has been issued.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: County Emergency Management, County Highway Departments, County Sheriff's Office, County Extension Agents.

STATE: N.D. State Radio Communications, N.D. Highway Patrol, N.D. State Water Commission, N.D. Division of Emergency Management, N.D. Department of Transportation, N.D. Department of Agriculture and the Civil Air Patrol.

FEDERAL: U.S. Department of Agriculture.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: Thirty couples who belong to the Christian Reformed World Relief are in Grand Forks conducting an extensive outreach/needs assessment study for the Valley Interfaith Coalition to Recovery (VICTORY). VICTORY is planing to make available grants in the amounts of \$1,000, \$5,000 or \$10,000 depending on the need and other assistance that has been obtained by individuals and families.

6. The American Red Cross provided assistance to residents who were flooded in Pembina County communities during the May and June flooding.

7. MAJOR ACTIONS: The State Coordinating Officer and the Federal Coordinating Officer have signed a memorandum of understanding in reference to eligible damages in the Devils Lake Basin. The memorandum states that because of the extreme conditions that exist in the Devils Lake area, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will consider applications for private and public assistance submitted after the close of the incident period for FEMA-1174-DR-ND. The agreement stipulates that damages must be directly related to flooding that occurred during the incident period, which is February 28, 1997, to May 24, 1997.

Preliminary findings of the NWS' Red River of the North Flood study indicate that bridges and backwater in the Grand Forks caused the river to rise by an additional three feet during the flood. The review committee is examining ways to improve communications between the NWS and the public, as well as enhancing river-forecasting procedures.

The State/Federal Disaster Field Office (DFO) and its DFO Annex will move during the August 8

weekend to the old Manhattan Life Building at 1022 East Divide Avenue. The DFO has been located at the Dacotah Foundation Building at 200 South Second Street, and the DFO Annex at the Bismarck Civic Center. The phone number, (701) 250-7100, will remain the same.

The State Hazard Mitigation Team has recommended approval of two Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) applications for acquisition of flood-damaged properties in Wahpeton and in Cass County. The Cass County application encompasses the acquisition of 51 homes for \$2.12 million. The Wahpeton application calls for acquiring three homes and a business for \$230,315. The applications are under review by FEMA Region VIII officials. A Federal/State Funding Committee, representing the Hazard Mitigation Team, will meet at 1:00 p.m. July 31 to review ways to finance infrastructure hazard mitigation projects.

Job Service North Dakota has received a \$2 million grant for flood recovery jobs, bringing the total amount of money received from the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) to \$4.5 million. The grants have funded up to 450 jobs for workers displaced by the flood. Employees are working at day care centers and a contractor clearing house and assisting with cleanup and restoration work.

N.D. State Electrical Board inspectors are assisting the city of Grand Forks with electrical inspections and are reviewing wiring inspection reports. Within 24 hours of the disaster, the board began efforts to help the city, establishing minimum requirements for repair of flood-damaged wiring. During the initial weeks of the disaster, the board assigned six employees to assist Grand Forks on a seven-day a week basis and hired two temporary employees for recording and filing permits. The board also conducted training for temporary inspectors hired by the city of Grand Forks. The board continues to assist the city with two employees who help with inspections. The board expects to complete 3,000 inspections by September. Two temporary employees have been hired to record and file permits. Since the city flooded in mid-April, approximately 11,000 wiring certificates had been issued to electricians working in Grand Forks. Of those, 9,000 have been submitted to the city's electrical inspection section. Last year, the board only issued 849 certificates to Grand Forks electricians.

Approximately 134 Grand Forks area residents are moving from the University of North Dakota (UND) dormitory rooms to travel trailers, manufactured homes, their repaired homes or rented homes and apartments. The move is expected to be completed July 31. Of the 129 manufactured homes installed at Princeton and Industrial mobile home parks, 51 have been leased. Another five have been placed at private and public lots in outlying areas.

The Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) at Fargo will close August 6. The Grand Forks DRC will remain open until further notice.

FEMA and state disaster workers will open an information center during the Greater Grand Forks Housing Fair on August 5 in Grand Forks to provide general public information about disaster programs.

To date, Public Assistance staff have prepared Damage Survey Reports (DSRs) for the 1997 flood for more than \$58.5 million of infrastructure repairs, emergency work and debris removal in the declared counties.

As of July 30, Job Service North Dakota has paid more than \$4 million in Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA). The agency has received 8,254 DUA applications.

With only seven days remaining to apply for Individual Assistance (deadline is August 6), 36,168 North Dakotans have reported personal property damages to the National Teleregistration Center (NTC). Of those applicants, 23,881 have received more than \$49.3 million in Disaster Housing assistance.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) has approved to date more than \$155 million in low-interest loans for businesses and individuals. The SBA has received 10,857 loan applications, 6,313 of which have been approved. Of the loans, 59 percent were to home owners and renters for real estate and

personal property losses, and 41 percent were to business owners for repairs to businesses and for lost income.

The Individual and Family Grant (IFG) program administered by the Division of Emergency Management has approved more than \$8.9 million in grants to individuals for flood losses. The average IFG grant is \$1,391.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: Web site addresses for other flood recovery information include:
 - N.D. Division of Emergency Management: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>
 - N.D. League of Cities: <http://www.ndlc.org>
 - N.D. State Water Commission: <http://water.swc.state.nd.us>
 - N.D. Attorney General Office: <http://www.state.nd.us/ndag>
 - N.D. Department of Agriculture: <http://www.state.nd.us/agr/>
 - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: <http://www.ncs-wc.usace.army.mil>
 - U.S. Geological Survey: <http://srv1dndbmk.cr.usgs.gov/public/index.html>

Douglas C. Friez, State Director